THE CUCKOO.

THE NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

VOL. I.—No. 22. TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1881. ONE PENNY.

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AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE.—THE NATIONAL THEATRE.—AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager. THE WORLD, pronounced by the *Times* Newspaper, in its review of the theatrical year, to be most undoubtedly the greatest success of the year. By Augustus Harris, William Rignold, Macklin, Gibson, Huntly, Boleyn, Lilly, Gresham, Ridley, and Harry Jackson; Misses Fanny Josephs, Fanny Brough, Maude De Vere, M'Namara, and Louisa Payne.

DRURY LANE.—THE STORES, at 7.30. Director of the Stores, Mr. Walter Pelham; Miss Kathleen Corri, Mr. Douglas Cox, Mr. De Lange, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Boughton, Mr. Buccalessi, Mr. Weldon.

LYCEUM.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.—THE CUP.—THE CORSICAN BROTHERS.—Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP, TO NIGHT, at a Quarter to Eight. Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Irving, Mr. Terriss. THE CORSICAN BROTHERS at Half-past Nine. Mr. Irving. Box Office (Mr. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats booked by Letter or Telegram.

THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM, April 16. This Theatre will be closed in Passion Week, until Saturday, April 16, when will be presented Mr. Cowley's Comedy, THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM. Doricourt, Mr. Irving; Letitia Hardy, Miss Ellen Terry; Miss Sophie Young, Mr. Howe, Mr. Terriss, Mr. Pinero, Mr. Elwood, Mr. Beaumont, &c. &c. Preceded by Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP. Seats can now be booked.—LYCEUM.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. A. and S. GATTI.—THIS EVENING, at 8, MICHAEL STROGOFF. Mr. C. Warner, Mr. H. J. Byron, and Mrs. Hermann Vezin; Messrs. J. Fernandez, Irish, Rosier, Warren, Russell, Palmer, Proctor; Mesdames Bernard-Beere and Gerard. At 7.15, BARNEY THE BARON. Mr. Shiel Barry, Miss Clara Jecks.

OLYMPIC.—JENNIE LEE.—JO.—FAREWELL PERFORMANCES.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30. Miss JENNIE LEE; Mesdames Dolores Drummond, M. Leighton, F. Smithers, C. Steele, F. Leyton, C. Humphreys, &c.; Mr. J. P. Burnett; Messrs. Howell, Dolby, Compton, Andrews, Leigh, Crisp, &c. Preceded, at 7.30, by FAMILY JARS. Misses Smithers and Leyton. Messrs. Compton, Crisp, Grahame. Box Office open 10 till 5. No Booking Fees. Carriages 10.45.—General Manager, Mr. J. H. COBBE.—OLYMPIC.

GAIETY THEATRE, Strand.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD.—7.0, OPERETTA. 7.20, LITTLE MOTHER: Miss L. Venne, &c. 8.30, FORTY THIEVES (Burlesque) in 3 Acts. Misses Farren, Vaughan, Gilchrist, Broughton, Gilbert, Hewett; Terry, Royce, Squire, Dallas, Two Macs, and Chorus.

GLOBE.—The THEATRE will REOPEN on SATURDAY, the 16th April, with an entirely new Opera Comique, in Three Acts, by Offenbach, entitled MARGOT. First Time in this country. Produced under the immediate direction of Mr. H. B. Farnie, supported by a strongly augmented Company and elaborate Mise-en-Scene. Full particulars will shortly be announced.

ROYALTY.—Manageress, KATE LAWLER.—Doors open at 6.30. THE SECRET, 6.45. H. J. Byron's highly-successful Comic Drama, BOW BELLS, at 7.30; to conclude, at 9.30, with the great Royalty Burlesque, DON JUAN JUNIOR, now played for over 130 nights. Pronounced by the Press to be an overwhelming triumph. Kate Lawler, Harriet Coveney, Emma Ritta, Ruth Francis, Annie Lawler, Florence Lavender, Connie Carlin, and Elise Ward; Edward Righton, Seymour Dallas, T. P. Haynes, Frank Wyatt, Herbert Kelcey, H. Martell, and Frank Cooper. Musical Director, Herr Max Schroter; Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Rothsay; Acting and General Business Manager for Kate Lawler, Cecil Raleigh.

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CRITERION THEATRE.—THIS EVENING, at 7.50, BRAVE HEARTS. At 8.45, WHERE'S THE CAT? Mr. Charles Wyndham, Messrs. Herbert, Standing, H. Beerbohm-Tree, G. Giddens, Walter Everard, A. M. Denison, W. J. Hill; Mesds. Eastlake, Rose Saker, M. Rorke, Edith Bruce, C. Harvey, Mrs. John Wood.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS.—Miss BATEMAN as MARY WARNER for THIS WEEK ONLY. TO-NIGHT, at 8, Tom Taylor's Popular Play, MARY WARNER. Miss Bateman, Messrs. E. H. Brooke, E. Lyons, A. Redwood, R. Lyons, B. Leslie, G. Canninge, &c.; Mrs. Huntley and Miss Compton. Prices from 6d. to 7s. 6d. Doors open at 6.30. Farce at 7. Box Office open 11 to 5.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. WILSON BARRETT.—TO-NIGHT, at 8, ROMEO AND JULIET. At 7, TWO OLD BOYS. Messrs. Wilson Barrett, J. Ryder, Forbes-Robertson, Clifford Cooper, Price, Norman Forbes, Norman, Darley, &c., and G. W. Anson; Mesdames Helena Modjeska, Emery, Giffard, Garnier, Clifford, &c., and E. G. Le Thiere. Doors open at 6.45, commence at 7. "Romeo and Juliet," at 8. Carriages at 11. Box Office daily from 11 to 5. No Fees. Morning Performance of ROMEO AND JULIET, SATURDAY NEXT, APRIL 9, at 2 p.m.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. Herman.

PRINCE of WALES'S ROYAL THEATRE. Sole Lesse, and Manager, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.40, a New Comedy, in Three Acts, called THE COLONEL, by F. C. Burnand. Preceded, at 7.50, by IN HONOUR BOUND, by Sydney Grundy. Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Flockton, Mr. W. Herbert, Mr. Eric Bayley, Mr. Rowland Buckstone, and Mr. Edgar Bruce; Miss Amy Roselle, Miss Myra Holme, Miss C. Grahame, Miss Eva Sothern, Mrs. Leigh Murray, &c. Doors open at 7.30; commence at 7.50. Box Office open daily, from Eleven to Five.—THE COLONEL. MATINEE, TO-MORROW (WEDNESDAY) and SATURDAY. Doors open at 2, commence at 2.30. An early application for seats is necessary.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—THIS EVENING, at 7.45, an entirely New and Original Romantic Spectacular Drama of sensational interest, entitled BRANDED, written by Richard Lee. New and realistic Scenery by Charles Brooke. New Overture and incidental Music by Michael Connelly. New Military Costumes direct from the Army Contractors, Paris. The horses supplied by Mr. George Sanger. Preceded at 7.0 by Farce, THE INTRIGUE. Box-office open daily.—ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE. BRANDED.—Messrs. HENRY NEVILLE, Redmund, F. Archer, J. Beauchamp, F. Charles, C. Sidney, Allen Thomas, Hewitt, Escourt, Evens, Gardiner, Greville, W. Avondale, Chamberlain, Stirling, &c.; Misses Caroline Hill, Maud Milton, Katie Barry, &c.; Mrs. Huntley and Mrs. Lyons. The Drama produced under the direction of Mr. Harry Jackson.

STRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. SWANBOROUGH.—THIS EVENING, at 8, a New and Original Opera Comique, in Three Acts, entitled OLIVETTE, adapted from the French of Chivot and Duru. Written and produced by H. B. Farnie. Preceded, at 7.30, by A SUMMER CLOUD. The Entertainment supported by a Powerful Company. Doors open at 7. Box Office open daily.—MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.0.

FOLLY.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. L. TOOLE. TO-NIGHT, at 7.30, HESTER'S MYSTERY. At 8, 355th Time, a New and Original Comedy, in Three Acts, by Henry J. Byron, called THE UPPER CRUST. Barnaby Doublechick, Mr. J. L. Toole. At 10, THE WIZARD OF THE WILDERNESS. Mr. J. L. Toole. Box Office open 10 till 5.—Prices: 1s. to £3 3s. No Free List. No Fees for Booking. Doors open at 7.—MORNING PERFORMANCE NEXT SATURDAY. Doors open 1.30. Toole in Three Pieces.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.0 o'clock, will be produced JEANNE, JEANNETTE, AND JEANNETON, a New Comic Opera, in a Prologue and Three Acts, by MM. Clairville and Delacour. Music by P. Lacome. The English Libretto by R. Reece. Characters by Mesdames Loseby, St. Quinten, Alice May, Ivanova, Jamieson, Martino; Messrs. W. H. Woodfield, W. S. Penley, Kelleher, Power, Collini, Sweetman, and Fred Leslie.—TO-NIGHT. In Act II. is introduced a New Grand Mythological Ballet, entitled ENDYMION (Music by G. Jacobi): Danseuses, Mdlles. Pertoldi, Gillert, Rosa, and Palladino, supported by the entire Corps de Ballet.

MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS, ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Last week of performance prior to the Easter Holidays. Last week of the immensely successful programme, which must necessarily be withdrawn, in the zenith of its success, it being the invariable practice to produce a new programme for the Easter holidays.—Fauteuils, 5s.; stalls, 3s.; area, 2s.; gallery, 1s. No fees.

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LEEDS AND MANCHESTER.—IMPORTANT NOTICE.—The world-famed MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS will give PERFORMANCES at the great Town Hall, Leeds, and the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, during Passion Week, opening in the great St. James's Hall on Easter Monday, with a new monster programme.

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H. FREEMAN.

THE CUCKOO

News and Gossip of the day.

VOL. I.—No 22. TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1881. ONE PENNY.

MANAGER'S NOTICE.

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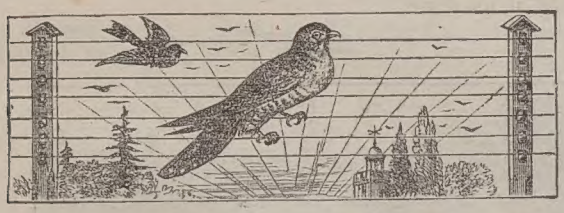
N. V. B.—*Editor's Office (to which all literary contributions for* THE CUCKOO *should be addressed), 97, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. Advertisers will please address H. Freeman, 86, Fleet Street, E.C. Publishing Office, 1, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.*



News from Abroad.

News from the Transvaal is chiefly personal. Sir Evelyn Wood has trusted himself alone in the hands of the Boers on a visit to Pretoria. He may safely do so in spite of the ominous warnings of friends, for much of the hope of the Boers centres in Sir Evelyn Wood.

Lady Colley has left for England.

One important item, however, there is of great public interest. In our deed of submission to the Boers, we had, it appears, to agree to a clause promising that British troops should never occupy Laing's Nek.

Abdul Rahman has lost no time in occupying Candahar. A very strong force of regular cavalry, supported by an army of infantry and twelve guns, have already occupied Khelat-i-Ghilzai, and should to-morrow be in possession of the great City of the South.

Nothing, then, will be wanting to prove to the credulous Afghans that we are retiring from Candahar under the compulsion of armed force.

The Prince of Wales will be present at Brussels at the marriage of the pretty Princess Stephanie with the hope of the House of Hapsburg.

M. Roch, the French artist who has charge of the guillotine at La Roquette, has received a delicate compliment from his fellow craftsman—the English professor of "hautes œuvres"—Mr. Marwood. "Our own hangman," who has availed himself of the temporary stagnation in trade to take his wife and three charming daughters to Paris, pitched his tent at a modest hotel in the Rue St. Roch. Only a man with privileged knowledge of the amenities of life would have shown such discernment in the art of courtesy.

A serious outbreak of small-pox is reported from Boulogne.

This may, of course, be only a bid for public favour by other watering-places in competition with Boulogne; but our news, we are sorry to say, reads far too circumstantially to permit us to withhold a warning from those who may be thinking of running over to the French coast during the coming holidays.

Chio was shaken to pieces by an earthquake yesterday and it is said 3,000 people were killed.

Yesterday also the town of Seville was flooded by the Guadalquiver, and great loss of life and property resulted.

Captain Boyton, who has recently been comparatively out of public sight, has just fallen upon evil times. He had been in Peru, and the Peruvians had been using his aquatic capabilities against the Chilians with considerable advantage. Unfortunately, however, Boyton had the bad

luck to fall into the hands of the foe, but, happily for him, they proved generous enemies, and treating him with more consideration than the mercenary nature of his service with the Peruvians, perhaps, entitled him to, and making no demur to his plea of American Nationality, at once released him. The gallant captain is now making the best of his way to his own land.

Great excitement has been caused in Venice by a mysterious discovery. At five o'clock on the evening of the 24th March the steamer *Tineno*, belonging to the Florio Company, while on its voyage from Buri, sighted an elegant two-oared boat, about 55 miles off Venice. The captain of the *Tineno*, surprised at finding so small a boat so far out at sea, made signals, but received no reply. He then stopped the steamer, and sent some sailors to examine the boat.

Three persons lay in it, apparently asleep—one at the prow, and two at the stern. They were three corpses. One was dressed in the uniform of the Austrian navy, and the others in elegant civil costume. One of the elegantly-attired corpses wore some rather valuable rings, and at the bottom of one boats were two fancy walking-sticks. The name *Oriente* was painted on the side. How did they die? Were they driven out to sea to perish of hunger and exhaustion? The only hint of possible foul play is the emptiness of their pockets.

The Governor of Tasmania is named Strong, and his secretary is named Wollop.

This sounds badly for the aborigines.

In Vienna, where thirst for pleasure and conscientious scruples struggle for their rights, a compromise has been hit upon. No ecclesiastical law forbids horses from dancing during the season of penance, so Viennese society has organised what are termed "Carousels," in the Prater Riding School, and there, to the sound of most inspiriting music, go through a set of equestrian performances, such as quadrilles, &c. Horses richly caparisoned, ladies and knights in classical costume, and the *manège* brilliantly illuminated and tastefully decorated, a sort of hand-canter-way of getting through Lent.

ON THE MAJUBA HILL.

A letter from one who was in the rout of Majuba Hill contains passages of great interest. Explaining the sudden attack on our supposed "impregnable" position, he says:—"The Boer fire was something terrible. I can't pretend to have had much experience of fire in battle, but I know with what rapidity troops when manœuvring at sham fights discharge their rifles. The only thing I have heard anything like it is a *feu de joie*. There would be, perhaps, forty men exposed to this at first; they stood it for five minutes, encouraged by their officers. 'Let them have it lads,' 'Stick up to them,' 'Give them a volley when they next show up,' was heard; but although the officers did their best by exposing themselves fearlessly, the fire of the enemy was too much for such a handful of men to answer, and they ran from the ridge into the hollow."

There was still, however, a show of opposition on the other ridge, "but just when there appeared to be a momentary lull in the fight, looking to the extreme right of the hill we saw our men there running towards us in twos and threes. 'Get back, you men, get back, get back,' was yelled at them by the officers. It was too late now, the men on the fighting kopje knew that in one minute the Boers would be over the ridge on the right of the hill and take us in the rear, while it was all we could do to hold our front. Half-a-dozen men ran from the Kopje towards the hospital; the officers threatened to shoot them with their revolvers: threats were in vain; before the half-dozen had gone twenty yards one loud cry of terror escaped the lips of the main body as they turned and ran."

Yet there was plenty of pluck shown, for "those who were not altogether incapable of making a stand, bandaged their own wounds and faced the Boers again. Several Highlanders I noticed, came from the hospital back to the kopje, with their heads bandaged up and covered with gore, but still rifle with bayonet fixed in hand."

Indeed, "amidst all this scene of excitement men were cool enough to think of smoking. Lieut. Lucy asked me for a match, remarking he might as well die with a pipe in his mouth as without one. I gave him my matches, and he was making off with them—after lighting his pipe—to the left to lead up some men, when I reminded him that I might as well die with my matches in *my* pockets as in *his*, so he returned me that property with thanks. I have reason to believe that Lucy will find his name mentioned in orders for his coolness at the action. He was the first to fire a shot at the Boers on the 27th."

Of the Hon. Captain Maude, he writes:—

"Poor Captain C. Maude (the Honourable) the only officer of the 58th killed, is a great loss to this camp. The heir to an estate, and leaving a wife and two children, he came to this camp a fortnight ago, and was attached to the 58th by request. He was formerly in the first battalion of Grenadier Guards, and came out to South Africa just to see the country. Hearing of the disaster at Laing's Nek he came here in post haste to offer his help. With everyone here he soon became immensely popular, because of his genial manners and disposition. On the battle-field, when the fire was hottest, he was ever the same, and though this was the first time he was under fire, he directed his men in the coolest manner."

Major Fraser's wonderful escape is already known, but nothing, perhaps, gives such a vivid touch to the narrative as this:—"He tells me he ate a couple of small land crabs, which he captured!"

Smidt, the Boer commander, is described as "a burly, good-natured van Dunk."

General Colley's death wound is said to have been in the back of his head.

News from the Country.

Who should possess a better appreciation of the legislative stability of the Brighton Corporation than a committee elected from its own body? This is a question suggested by an event which is to occur at the council meeting on Wednesday next. The Sanitary Committee will then ask the Council to agree to plans for a sanatorium which were rejected some months ago on the ground of expense.

The 38th Middlesex (Artists) Corps, who are going down

to Brighton for the review five hundred strong, will be quartered in the Corn Exchange. A guard will be mounted each night to prevent smoking. Major Edes is satisfied with the arrangement. Captain Archer has undertaken to observe the same regulation on being permitted to lodge two hundred of the 1st Middlesex (Engineers) at the Town Hall.

Electric light is almost too powerful for that leisurely active body, the Brighton Corporation. After talking about it for three years, and a month's trial of the new light, the Town Council is to be informed on Wednesday, that if twenty of Messrs. Siemen's lamps, equal to 2,000 candles each, are placed on the frontage of the town, the existing gas lamps will be rendered unnecessary! As to the cost of the improvement—well, that is relegated to a future effort. Meanwhile other experiments may be made.

A serious conflagration, which took place on the Caledonian Railway the other day, was as singular in its causes as it was destructive in its effects. It appears that some 1,500 sleepers had been laid down in separate heaps, for use for repairs during the coming summer, but it unfortunately happened that on Sunday a passing engine threw out some sparks which, alighting on one of the timber heaps, soon created a fire, and the wood being exceedingly dry, there was soon a tremendous blaze, notwithstanding the efforts of large gangs of platelayers to keep the fire under. Fortunately the line was pretty wide at the spot, so as to leave room for the passage of trains without stopping the traffic. The fire continued to burn furiously to a late hour last night, sending up tongues of flame twenty to thirty feet high, and illuminating the country for miles round. Thousands of people were attracted to the spot from long distances.

Death has many causes, but it is seldom that the mere smashing of a window induces such fright as to end in fatal results. A case of this singular description, however, is just reported from Dundee. It appears that a man named Hay went to the house of an old woman named Christie to make inquiries about his sister, and being told she was not there, began to be riotous, ending by smashing four panes of glass in the window. A middle-aged woman lodging in the house received such a shock of terror from the affair, that she became insensible, and died in a few hours.

The elder female was not shocked a bit, however. On the contrary, she gave Hay into custody.

A Land League meeting has been held at Bulleydehob, at which Miss Parnell has once more poured forth her soul to her wondering countrymen.

Where is Bulleydehob? I should be ashamed to appear ignorant, but I am encouraged to ask the question by the admission made by Miss Parnell that she didn't know herself where it was the night previous to the meeting.

Nevertheless, she informed an appreciative audience that having learned where it was, and having seen it, she thought it was the "grandest place in the world."

The rioting in county Sligo yesterday was of a more serious character than our first telegrams indicated—one of the police officers probably fatally wounded—half-a-dozen of the sympathisers dying! Ulster will become jealous of Connaught if there is a repetition of this business. Belfast used to have a monoply of Irish riots on an extensive scale, and will doubtless be reluctant to relinquish her past position without a struggle.

Some landlords in the West of Ireland have received for the past eighteen months not one single halfpenny from their tenants. In fact, many of these worthy land-holders may be said at the present moment to be "sitting rent free"!

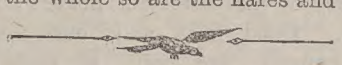
The ordinary routine of business was disturbed at Liverpool yesterday by a considerable commotion, arising out of the attempted elopement of a Bolton lady from her spouse. She wished to proceed to Philadelphia, but her husband overtook her at the landing-stage, and called upon the police to detain her, as she had a sum of £75, which had been abstracted from his strong-box. As necessary preliminaries had not been complied with, the police could not interfere but the irate husband seized the luggage, and marched off, followed by his "better half," the two carrying on a lively altercation as they proceeded.

At the Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition a space has been reserved for paintings of a fishy kind. Special arrangements have, we see, been made for carrying anglers to the scene of revelry and back.

The parish of Newnham, near Gloucester, has sustained a sad loss in the destruction of its fine parish church by fire. Of the costly character of the sacred edifice an idea may be formed from the fact that the bells alone were insured for £3,700. But the calamity, however disastrous its effects otherwise, has at least afforded the incumbent the consolation of witnessing the generosity of his people. At a meeting held the other day to consider the ways and means of restoration, letters were read from two different ladies, one offering to restore the east window, and the other the pulpit. Insurance, of course, covers the bells, and funds are coming in for the building.

Trout fishing in Loch-Leven has just set in, but the extreme coldness of the weather has hitherto rendered good sport out of the question. The first basket of the season was taken on Saturday.

The Governor of Bombay (Sir James Fergusson, Bart.) would be a proud man had he heard all the pleasant things said of him lately by his Ayrshire tenantry. The occasion was the coming into force of a provision giving all the Kilkerran tenants the right to kill the hares and rabbits on their respective holdings, subject to certain reasonable limitations. A close time for hares is to be observed, and the tenants are to do everything in their power to protect the winged game and to keep poachers off their lands. The farmers without exception are delighted with the concessions, and on the whole so are the hares and the grouse.



Much anxiety is felt at Portsmouth at the non-arrival of the Irish packet. There is a fleet of steamers calling at Falmouth, Plymouth, Southampton, and Portsmouth, and they are most regular in their arrival. The packet was timed to reach Portsmouth yesterday morning, but as she has not even arrived at Southampton grave fears are entertained as to her safety during the heavy winds of the past few days.

Lanhydrock House, near Bodmin, the seat of Lord Robartes, was yesterday afternoon almost destroyed by fire. The conflagration originated in the kitchen, and, owing to the high wind, all but the north wing was consumed.

The Services.

Inverness Highlanders want to be represented in the Army, and at a recent meeting of the Gaelic Society the other night, a letter was received from Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh, urging that steps be taken to form a regiment to bear the name of the Inverness Highlanders, and to be linked with the 79th (The Camerons).

The 1st Royal Dragoons are about to lose their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Graham, who has been connected with the regiment since 1855, having sent in his papers to retire on half-pay. Major Hutton, formerly on Earl Spenser's staff in Ireland, succeeds to the command of the regiment, in which he has served for upwards of twenty-one years.

Who will say that promotion in the army is stagnant? In recognition of his services as adjutant of the 50th Foot in Afghanistan, the Horse Guards have promoted Lieutenant Stephen Watson to a company in the 29th Foot, and have further gazetted him to a brevet-majority. Major Watson, who was specially recommended by Sir Donald Stewart for his gallantry at the battle of Ahmed Kheyl, has risen in eight years from the position of a non-commissioned officer of the 10th Hussars to field rank. Prior to his enlistment in the cavalry he had held a lieutenant's commission in the 14th Foot.

There is some loose talk at the War Office of raising several regiments for exclusive service in India so as to relieve from duty in the East some eight or ten battalions, and thereby make the army in England more strictly territorial.

These corps, if constituted will be much on the same footing as the old Bengal, Madras, and Bombay European battalions, of which there were, previous to the amalgamation of the Indian and English armies in 1858, nine battalions, that since then have been numbered in the British Army the 101st to the 109th regiments.

The Duke of Cambridge is said to be unfavourable to the scheme of corps raised for local service in India, but, many Anglo-Indian officers of experience are in favour of the plan.

No steps have yet been taken with reference to the proposed review of Volunteers in Edinburgh during the coming summer. In any case, however, the event will not take place earlier than August, when a muster of from 25,000 to 30,000 men is confidently expected.

Our Civil Service.—The position of the Lower Division clerks in the Civil Service cannot be allowed to be regarded as settled by the statement made by Lord Frederick Cavendish. Good faith and, one might almost add, national honesty, are both at stake, and Dr. Playfair himself, if his tongue were not tied by his semi-official position, would be the first to protest against the Treasury interpretation put upon his proposals, and ratified by the Queen in Council. The terms of the Order in Council which sanctioned the Playfair scheme are perfectly clear, and could scarcely have been misunderstood by any who offered himself as a candidate for the service of the Crown. The clause runs thus: "16. Extra pay, not exceeding £100 per annum, may be attached to certain situations open to clerks of the Lower Division, whose duties involve the superintendence of other clerks, *or are otherwise of a more distinctly responsible* character than such as the generality of their colleagues have to perform."

To this Lord Frederick Cavendish, as the mouthpiece of the Treasury officials, replies that there are still so many clerks remaining of the old establishments performing duties that in some remote future will be performed by the Lower Division clerks, that the fulfilment of the promises held out to the latter must be indefinitely postponed.

This is but a very small fraction of the truth, as the Treasury very well knows, whilst it is no answer to the Lower Division clerks to tell them that clerks of superior salary are at present performing duties which they will in the course of time have to perform at one-third of the present cost.

It is, moreover, not the whole truth with regard to the question of extra or Duty Pay. A reference to the current year's estimates will show that although in many offices the Lower Division clerks have been left out in the cold, in spite of specific promises to treat all alike, yet in the Treasury itself there are four clerks of the Lower Division in receipt of Duty Pay, as are others in the Home Office, the Privy Council, the Colonial Office, &c.

But what is still more ungenerous and inexplicable in the face of Lord Frederick Cavendish's statement is that whilst Duty Pay cannot be granted to the Lower Division clerks, who are paid at the rate of £80 per annum and get no rise for three years, when they advance to £95—there is no apparent obstacle in giving extra allowance under various names to the Upper Division clerks, whose salaries were considered by Mr. Playfair's committee to be too frequently in inverse ratio to their duties.

News of Town.

Gossip of the Lobby.

Mr. Gladstone has taken a penny off the income-tax. But our readers must not forget that he put it on.

It is an old trick, but it always succeeds somehow.

Never, perhaps, was there a more commonplace Budget. Though his totals were enormous, the Chancellor had to trifle with sums more becoming the exchequer of Monaco or Bulgaria than of Imperial England. As a matter of fact, so small were the amounts that the line between surplus and deficit kept vanishing and re-appearing like a streak of sulphur on a dark wall.

Nothing has been disturbed; we are to have our silver spoons, the Chancellor tells us, cheaper and cheaper every year, and meanwhile the penny which Mr. Gladstone put on Mr. Gladstone has taken off. Never, perhaps, was there so little wool to such a monstrous quantity of cry.

Mr. Fawcett has made, perhaps, a more serious mistake than he at first supposed when he treated the telegraph deputation so cavalierly. We would again remind the Postmaster-General that he is a public servant, and not the Autocrat of All the Russias.

The country would rather see him out of office, great as

the calamity would be, than have a strike among the telegraph clerks.

The Sunderland nominations are to be made next Saturday, and the election is expected on the Monday following.

Mr. Corbet has issued his address in the Conservative interest to the Northampton electors.

Lord Granville's illness, in which we heartily sympathise, was not altogether inopportune, inasmuch as it baulked the "injudicious peer" of his victim. As Lord Granville was not present, Lord Stratheden and Campbell was not able to ask him why Sir Henry Layard was withdrawn from Constantinople. The noble lord entertains theories on the subject.

Mr. Parnell continues on the stump, and on Saturday addresses the constituents of Cork.

He will no doubt take the opportunity of pointing out to Irishmen how infamously they still retain their pre-eminence in dastardly crime, and will do his best to assure them that neither he nor they retain a shred of sympathy from respectable Englishmen, Scotchmen, or Irishmen.

The Day's Amusements.

The Light Blues had a narrow escape of a thorough ducking off the Fulham pier, and had to flee for *terra firma* to avert disaster. There was in the rowing very little fresh to be learned in the going of both crews, but "an old party" was "off to London" from the riverside yesterday afternoon to make "Cambridge favourites."

C. T. Studd (Trinity) will represent Cambridge against Oxford in the single racquet match. His partner for the double game is not decided upon yet, A. G. Steel (Trinity Hall) and C. A. C. Ponsonby (Trinity) having to play for second place at Prince's next Thursday.

As little as 100 to 30 has been taken about Alec Taylor's lot for the City and Suburban. Now, which is it to be, Fernandez, Prestonpans, Buchanan, Out of Bounds, or Corrie filly? As the showman would say, "Yer pays yer money," and you are therefore entitled to take your choice! There is, indeed, very little doubt about your *paying* your money, while there may be a deal of doubt about your choice.

The gentleman jockey, Mr. T. Spence, who met with an accident on Saturday, is going on satisfactorily.

Bend Or did a mile and three furlongs at half speed yesterday.

Prestonpans and Fernandez did a mile and a half yesterday, at a good pace, and Buchanan a mile and a quarter.

Lord Haldon and Sir John Duntze have undertaken the hunting of the Haldon country for the next season, provided the landowners strictly preserve foxes for them.

A meeting of the West Kent Hunt was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, last week, to take into consideration the resignation of the Hon. Ralph Nevill, the Master; and, finally, Mr. Nevill agreed to retain his position for a year or two longer, on the understanding that the Hunt should support him, and Sir W. Hart Dyke's promise to take steps with the landowners to secure the preservation of foxes.

The Dumfrieshire Hunt have resolved to make a presentation of his portrait to Major Johnstone, and also to Mr. Graham, at a dinner to be given to-morrow.

The Hurlingham Club opened its shooting season yesterday afternoon, and, considering the bitterly cold wind that prevailed, there was a fair attendance. There were two events down in the programme for decision, the first being a £3 or £5 sweepstakes at twenty-six yards, at five birds each, those missing one to retire, and for which there were eight entries, Mr. Hopwood winning the pool—£20, the other two missing their second tie birds. The second event was a sweepstakes of £2 each, all at twenty-seven yards, at five birds each, for which thirteeen members competed, and in this Mr. Hopwood again proved victorious by grassing all his pigeons, winning £23 10s. Five minor sweepstakes were also decided, in which Mr. F. Leighton displayed remarkably good form, winning the first and third, and dividing the second with Mr. Eden, the fourth with Sir J. Leith Buchanan, and the fifth with Mr. Bruce.

Prizes to the amount of over 25,000 francs are announced by the committees of the Notting-hill and Hurlingham Gun Clubs for a week's international shooting, to take place in June. This sum exceeds anything that has hitherto been given in England, and as it is expected to entice some of the crack shots of the Continent, the competitions are looked forward to with much interest.

What will the "Dook" say to the following from an American contemporary?—"The sportsmen of Springfield, Massachusetts, have shot over 100 foxes already this season, and the end is not yet." Fancy these self-named sportsmen having a fortnight at their fun in the neighbourhood of Badminton.

The Royal Toxopholite Society completes, and intends to celebrate the completion of, its century of existence in October next.

An important international curling match commences at Southport to-day, when many of the principal English and Scotch clubs will meet to try conclusions for the Holden Challenge Shield. It is said that the artificial ice put down for the occasion is very fine, and a great improvement on anything before attempted in this line.

Mr. Foster, of Huddersfield, has been fortunate enough to capture a 35lb. salmon in Loch Tay, while the Earl of Airlie and Sir W. Elliott score one each of 24lbs. weight upon the same water.

Swimming hardly meets with the encouragement that is its due in this country. I gather this from the report of the Swimming Association of Great Britain just to hand wherein is detailed the fact that £61 4s. 2d. was the turn-over of the Society during last season. It is, however, gratifying to learn that two or three philanthropists have come forward with cups to encourage this useful art.

King Kalakua II., sovereign of the Sandwich Islands, has decided to organise a regular "nation," and has begun with—an army. His military band, ordered while in Germany, is quite sufficient, they say, for a first-class army.

Soldiers, however, his Majesty has none. Indeed, he has no subjects to speak of, and is expected very soon at Calcutta, where, if he chooses, he can pick up as many subjects as he likes, very cheap—provided he will pay the ordinary commission at the Emigration Office.

Gossip of Town.

ILLNESS OF LORD BEACONSFIELD.

Lord Beaconsfield, though not failing, is certainly not improving, but every day of weakness weakens also the chances of the great statesman's recovery.

He is now in such an exhausted state that Nature will have to rally all her forces almost by a sudden effort to get him round again.

Throughout yesterday the patient slept occasionally, and took nourishment fairly satisfactorily, the day being, on the whole, a quiet one, and free from spasmodic breathing.

Towards night, however, there was a slight increase of fever, and once again the terrible news disquieted London that Lord Beaconsfield was sinking. In the House of Commons it was reported that he was dangerously ill, and many members went personally to Curzon-street in the middle of the night to assure themselves that the end had not really come.

This morning, however, at one o'clock, it was found that Lord Beaconsfield was no worse, and was tranquilly sleeping.

At intervals throughout the morning his lordship has suffered slightly from irritation of the chest; but on the whole, thanks to his ability to take food and the great natural buoyancy of his constitution, his condition does not cause such grave anxiety as it did on Sunday, nor, indeed, does his lordship seem, at the moment of our going to press, in so serious a state as was feared last night.

It would have been a sufficient tribute to the extraordinary veneration in which the great earl is held to have recorded the instances of personal affection, public admiration, and political respect, which during the last three days have filled Curzon-street with Royal, noble, and distinguished visitors.

Last night, however, another very signal instance was afforded of the great personal esteem in which Lord Beaconsfield is held by our Royal Family. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh, just returned from St. Petersburg, drove straight to see the sick earl, and stayed until they had received from the doctors in attendance an assurance that the patient's condition was not so critical as report had feared.

We did not hesitate to speak out our whole mind as to the aged Premier's loss of memory when he contradicted in the Court of Queen's Bench the statement made from recollection by Mr. Edwin Arnold, of the *Daily Telegraph*. The Premier soon after was pleased to allow the publication of a qualified apology for his very grave lapse. Time passed, the case is all over, and now the Premier confesses frankly that Mr. Edwin Arnold was quite right, and he himself utterly wrong.

If Mr. Gladstone had not fallen on the back of his head, he might not have contradicted Mr. Arnold—the most dangerous witness of the whole trial against the Premier's friend—and if he had not contradicted Mr. Arnold, there might have been another juror or two on the side of Mr. Lawson.

An odd feature about the census taking is that several of the younger and more energetic of the London clergy officiated as enumerators in their respective parishes. The experiment has been justified by the results, the people proving more communicative to the cloth than to the ordinary enumerator.

Every one who has been nearly run over—and who has not?—should back up the Society for the Prevention of Street Accidents in its new crusade. This organisation has at last decided to justify its existence by an active policy of repression and prosecution, and Mr. Keevil, the honorary secretary, will be glad on behalf of the Society to receive substantial help. The offices are at 47, Pall Mall.

The Release of Michael Davitt.—A committee, representing all sections of Irish Nationalists and English Democrats, is being formed in London to agitate for the unconditional release of Michael Davitt. It is intended to extend the agitation to the United States, Canada, and Australia.

I am surprised to have seen no reference to the strange proceedings at Willis's Rooms last week.

A few nights ago a Subscription Ball was announced to be held there, and tickets were obtainable of Messrs. Mitchell, in Bond-street. Perhaps some one hundred and fifty or two hundred tickets were sold, and the rooms, though not crowded, gave good opportunity for dancing. Everything went on in an orderly, if not somewhat monotonous, way until two o'clock, when unexpectedly the dancers found themselves in darkness, the lights being suddenly turned out. A general exodus to the supper-room followed; but there, also, the gas had been extinguished, and the only reply vouchsafed by the officials in attendance was that they were entirely under the orders of the police. As both Houses of Parliament were represented amongst the guests, the cry arose, "Where are the Police?" but no emissaries from Scotland-yard, in uniform or plain clothes, were forthcoming. The attendants remained obdurate, and stubbornly refused to throw any light upon their own acts or those of the company.

At length one ingenious guest (perhaps a member of a neighbouring club) rushed out and brought back with him about a couple of dozen candles.

These were promptly lighted and stuck about in jellies, game pies, wine glasses, &c., and the hungry visitors were enabled in the dim twilight to despatch some of the viands provided. All attempts to obtain wine of any sort were as fruitless as those to find out how the strange line of conduct adopted by the attendants originated, so that the only resource left to the thirsty was orange juice mixed in water. The most inexplicable part of the affair is that the time for ordering the guests' carriages was given by the attendants, and was fixed by them at more than two hours' subsequent to the *coup de main* which extinguished the light throughout the rooms.

Two eight-oared boats, as we have already announced, were capsized in the violent gales of Saturday. They were manned by the *employés* of West-end firms, who were competing in trial heats for the selection of crews to row in a regatta, when the wind and broken water turned them both over. Altogether six lives are up to the present known to have been lost.

Accidental death is the verdict of the jury, but the public are not quite satisfied with it. The river was in a dangerous condition, and those who knew it to be so should have prevented these hapless shop-girls and their sweethearts from ignorantly running such grave peril.

The anniversary festival of the Orphan Working School, Haverstock-hill, will be held on Thursday next, April 7, when Mr. George Hanbury will preside.

THE LAMENT OF ASHBURNHAM HOUSE.

"They came upon me suddenly, they nabbed me unawares,
They signed away my ceiling, they stole away my stairs;
At midnight dark the spoilers met, and each laughed in his sleeve;
They tore me from my canon's arms, and never asked his leave.

"I once could boast my lofty name, my ancient pedigree,
Now noisy boys and dirty boots have made a prey of me;
Now 'chemicals' in vile array will stain my polished floor,
Now courteous host and kindly guest will tread my halls no more.

"Yet hark! they sound the battle-cry! the deed may be undone!
Stands in the front our gallant Dean, once more 'On! Stanley! on!'
The canons, too, are thundering forth; if valour win the day,
We yet may drive the traitorous Scot right back across the Tay.

"My 'Masters' all! give ear in time! you'd best not touch one stone,
I'll tumble ere I'm made a show, piecemeal, in Kensington!
To grub about an ancient house may bring it on your head;
To grab at other people's rights may hurt your own instead.

"You'd best keep quiet, hold your peace, and hope they'll pass you by;
But, if you hunt your neighbours down, with all this hue and cry,
Some sage may say, 'Why make such fuss? your college earns faint praise;
You've lost the learning, lost the sports, so famed in earlier days,
You can't compete with other schools of old or new renown;
Pack up your traps, take down your desks—we'll send you out of town!"

With one Griffin on a pedestal opposite the Law Courts, two more Griffins nominated for City appointments, a Giffen spoken of for another post, and now a Griffith for the City Remembrancership, we are really having too much of the nuisance. We should be glad of even a Dragon by way of a change.

A treaty of offence and defence has been concluded between the hon. members for Birkenhead and Plymouth. The similarity of the names of MacIver, M.P., and Macliver, M.P., is found to create as much confusion as the old difference between Cæsar and Pompey. Therefore, for the future, say the high contracting parties to this treaty, "Let us be respectively called David and Peter Stewart in full." The last exciting cause for this decision was the conglomeration of P. S. MacIver, Esq., M.P., being announced to attend a meeting of the sugar refiners at Mile End last week. Neither gentleman could well judge "which for which" was meant. Nor did the explanation of one of the East-end Committee, "*that it was only the 'h'ell that had been left out*," tend to smooth matters. The hon. member for Plymouth distinctly declined to be the person meant.

The demonstration of the East-end Sugar Operatives, under the presidency of Lord Claude Hamilton, M.P., on Wednesday last, was the scene of a somewhat notable occurrence. Mr. Shipton, the mover of the first resolution, while condemning the foreign bounty system, was proceeding to speak in depreciation of those who, because America persists in a prohibitive tariff, advocate retaliative duties on this side. Scarcely, however, were the words spoken than the large audience seized them in a different sense, and loudly cheered a policy of reciprocal duties *vice* free trade made impossible. Mr. MacIver and his friends seemed to be in tolerably strong force on the platform, and were not slow in accepting this expression of feeling on the part of the working-classes present.

NIHILISTS IN LONDON.—Clerkenwell-green, the Prytaneum of London, was honoured by the presence of the "*Freiheit* Defenders" on Sunday.

It was announced that there was to be a "mass meeting," but if any one went hoping to see the "fierce democracy" in their thousands and in their most dangerous mood, he was miserably disappointed.

There was simply the usual Sunday gathering, with the addition of about a score of foreigners. The Clerkenwell "exiles" and the Leicester-square "exiles" are distinct types. The former are almost exclusively French, and of the shabby genteel type; the latter are mixed French and German, and make no pretentions, but are content to appear what they are—workmen, mostly watchmakers.

Further east still there is another foreign colony, the Whitechapel Germans, sugar-bakers, almost to a man, and devoted followers of Herr Most.

Those whose devotions lead them to church on Sunday, whatever their "'doxy" may be, have little idea of the congregations and services that have for generations been characteristic of the Green.

Christian, Atheist, Radical, Tory, Irishman, all hold forth to little groups of sympathisers or opponents, and occasionally very lively debates spring up. We shall some day, perhaps, give a sketch of all this, but to-day the *Freiheit* meeting calls for notice.

Our readers are pretty familiar with the style of the Socialists now, but there were a few odd points about Sunday's gathering. In the first place there was the inevitable quarrel, for these iconoclasts hate each other like Christians, and it is astonishing what things honest men hear when—well, when patriots fall out.

The Chairman proposed was one of the secretaries of the famous International. But this did not please some, for there was first objection and then secession, the seceders asserting, as usual, that the person objected to was a traitor.

One specimen only of the language. At the secession meeting bombs were recommended, as a means of reform, by a speaker who reminds us somewhat of Mr. Nally, of Dublin State Trials celebrity.

Mr. Nally recommended "pills"—lead pills, as the only radical cure for the ills of Ireland, and said the Clerkenwell orator, "It's all very well to object to bombs," but bombs "show the power of the workmen. If every one of us had a bomb in his pocket, we could soon have our own way."

This was pretty good at a meeting where one of the resolutions declared that they were being deprived of their "most cherished liberty," free speech!

Superficial observers sometimes declare themselves unable to comprehend why the Clerkenwell patriots speak

only in the forenoon, and why the meetings dissolve as if by magic at a certain hour, like ghosts at cock-crow.

The explanation is simple. That hour of mysterious dissolution is one o'clock, and at one the public-houses open.

"Not that we love freedom less, but beer more," said the hearers; so the Atheist packed up his reading-stand, the Salvation Army furled its flag, and the carrier's cart that served as a platform for the "mass meeting" was left to its normal prosaic functions, and in ten minutes the green was deserted.

At the Arts Club.

Mr. Righton leaves the Royalty soon. He was all right in comedy and burlesque, but when he was cast for the County Court last week he was found altogether unequal to the part.

The artist who designed those attractive show-cards which we see in the shop windows representing the burlesque of *Don Juan Junior* brought an action against Miss Lawler for the sum of £8 10s. Mr. Righton, who was the "stage manager" at the "Royalty," was subpœnaed by the management for the defence. His evidence went dead against the interests of his employers, and judgment was delivered accordingly. The result for Mr. Righton was that he received his "fortnight's notice," and he is now on the look out-for another engagement.

Mr. G. R. Sims, the clever author of *Crutch and Toothpick*, has, we understand, submitted a new three-act comedy to Miss Lawler, manageress of the Royalty Theatre. It will probably be played soon after Easter.

On Saturday, after three days' work, a hundred and fifty pictures had been definitively accepted by the selecting committee at the Academy, out of six thousand sent in. An enormous number are marked "doubtful" this year, and out-and-out acceptance is only for the exceptionally good. So more than ever depends upon the hangers.

Her Majesty the Empress of the French is writing the life of her son, the Prince Imperial, and the memoir will be brought up to the date of her visit to the desolate donga in Zululand where the young Napoleon fell, "with his face to the foe."

Infinitely more important, however, is the fact that Her Majesty is now editing the notes "On Men and Things," kept with considerable fulness by Napoleon III.

Mr. Edwin Arnold has in the press a volume of "Indian Poetry," which Messrs. Trübner and Co. are bringing out. One poem is "Two Books from the Iliad of India"—a wonderful poem, with such heathenism in it as might make the best Christians heathen and such Christianity in it as shows the heathen to be more than Christian.

Mr. William Black, the novelist, and Mr. Bret Harte are reported to be staying at Oban.

The present receipts at the Gaiety Theatre are the largest which have been known in the twelve years' history of the house, exceeding even the big amounts netted in 1872 during the first engagement of Mr. Charles Mathews.

The design of the memorial to Dr. Livingstone, the well-known African traveller and missionary, for erection in St. John the Baptist's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, is now well forward. The stained glass memorial window will represent a handsome design of St. John preaching in the Wilderness, and beneath there will be a representation of St. Philip baptising the Ethiopian. The artist is Mr W. F. Dixon, of University-street, Tottenham-court-road.

A memorial in Cararra marble of Mr. George E. Herring, the artist, has just been completed, and will shortly be placed in position in the Highgate Cemetery. It is let in on a marble base, and bears beneath the following inscription: "George E. Herring, Landscape Painter, born 1st January, 1805; died 18th December, 1879; tender and true in art and in life."

The spring drawing of the Art Union of Kent, consisting of oil paintings and water-colour drawings under the sanction of Her Majesty's Privy Council, will take place on Saturday next (9th inst.) in the Town Hall at Woolwich.

The peace of the R.A.S. is not likely soon to be disturbed again by Crawford and Balcarres, Beckett, Ranyard, Noble, and Co., in the burning question of the endowment of research. At the meeting convened on Friday night for the express purpose of submitting the resolutions we gave in a recent number to the society, it told the agitators by something like 10 to 1 that the endowment of research was none of its business. The meeting got no further than the first resolution, and we have no doubt that the six disinterested requisitionists, led by the noble earl, felt themselves very much laughed at, as they richly deserved to be.

What will they do now? Indignantly separate themselves from such a corrupt body as the R.A.S., and found an A.S. without the R., with head-quarters in Lincoln's-inn?

Mr. Erroll Sherson, yielding to the request of H.S.H. Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, conducted a concert at Southsea last night, assisted by the Viscountess Folkestone, Lady Anne Sherson, Miss Minna Vivian, Mrs. Nugent, Mr. McCheane, Mr. Grahame, Mr. Marzials, and other well-known amateurs.

Hadyn's *Creation* is to be performed at the Kingston Drill Hall, on Thursday next. The chorus will number nearly 200 voices.

Those of our readers who wish to combine philanthropy with amusement will be glad to learn that the Covent-garden Lifeboat Fund, which has already contributed nearly eleven hundred pounds to the coffers of its parent society, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, will give a grand evening concert on Thursday, the 21st instant, in aid of the object for which it was founded.

The concert will take place at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, at 8 p.m., and amongst those whose names appear on the programme may be mentioned Mesdames Trebelli and Antoinette Sterling, and Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Herbert Reeves. The services of the Faulkner Leigh Choir have also been secured, and a pleasant evening may be confidently anticipated.

Seats may be secured at Austin's.

ÆSTHETIC PECKHAM.

DEAR CUCKOO,—Eight performances of *The Colonel* are being given every week at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and a new æsthetic opera is to be produced at the Opera Comique at Easter. The prospect is sufficiently appalling—an assertion in which some of your readers may concur if you will kindly permit me to justify it by an experience.

I am a banker's clerk, with a salary of £300. I have

been married twelve years, and I pay £40 a year for the unpretending villa at Peckham, in which my domestic bliss has been achieved. Our household consists of my wife and myself, three children, and a general servant. I must mention also Tycho Brahe, a bulldog, somewhat unprepossessing in appearance, but the gentlest and most intelligent dog soul on the Surrey side.

This particularity is due to the fact that I have just scheduled my household responsibilities at the instance of a statistical and inquisitorial government. The last column of the Census paper has been peculiarly painful. The instructions which direct the head of the family to "write the respective infirmity opposite the name of an afflicted person" have been rigidly adhered to by me, and opposite my wife's *true* age (I will say that for her) stands the fatal word "æstheticism."

But I must condense. My wife is devoted and domestic; her chief perturbations having hitherto been due to Mr. Spurgeon's special Tabernacle services and to the residence of her mother in the Camberwell Grove. A fortnight ago, however, my mother-in-law took her to see *The Colonel*. I hate theatres, but I got no peace till I went myself, and I have had very little since.

I dare say many people are obliged to Mr. Burnand for causing them so much laughter. I heard them, idiots! Yes, it is all very well for those who have graduated in this deadly æstheticism at its head-quarters. What I complain of is that, while satirising the original school at Kensington, Mr. Burnand has founded a new one at Peckham.

For the last few days our front parlour has been closed to me. It was the spring cleaning. I knew that the wall-paper was a little cloudy, and I had not refused my wife's request to be allowed to choose a new one. It was kept close. It was sprung upon me this morning. Ye gods! we have a "dado" at Peckham, and three old crocks are hung, like malefactors, in irons, over the chimney-glass.

Two artificial sunflowers, potted in green worsted, flank the umbrella stand in the passage. (I would say "hall," but the rent is only £40.)

Last night I caught sight of my mother-in-law coming through the Rye—perhaps you don't know Peckham—and she was got up as like Lady Tompkyns as two (preserved) peas.

As for my wife, she has discovered that Tycho is an anachronism. He is "the symbol and incarnation of brute force." He is objected to. But "the other side" will have to be heard on this question, I can tell you.

And do you ask what Tycho himself says? I'm afraid that Tycho fails as yet to realise all the dread potentialities of the situation; but he has expressed, in terms of the most undisguised contempt, his opinion of the "sovereign sunflower."

Thus bad begins, and worse—I fear—remains behind.

Yours despondently,
THOMAS BORAGE.

The cows and milkwomen at the Spring-gardens end of St. James's-park have long been familiar objects to most Londoners. But who would imagine that one of the attendant nymphs with the milk-pail appeared every evening in the front row of the ballet at the Alhambra? Verily one-half of the world knows not how the other half gets its living. And yet to combine the functions of a cow-keeper and *coryphée* would appear too improbable, were it not an absolute fact.

Courts and Courtiers.

Her Majesty has postponed her journey from Windsor to Osborne till to-morrow.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Marlborough House last evening from Dover, on their return from St. Peterburg, with Lord Suffield, Lieut.-Col. Clarke, and Lieut.-Col. Le Strange in attendance. Their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Edinburgh remain another week in St. Petersburg.

The Empress Eugenie left Windsor yesterday, being accompanied to the railway station by Princess Beatrice.

The Empress Eugenie is expected to reside at Coombe Cottage for some little time, and will probably not remove to Farnborough-hill till towards the close of the year, when it is anticipated the alterations and improvements now in progress at the mansion will be completed. It is believed that the Empress will erect a chapel near her new residence at Farnborough, to which the remains of the late Emperor and Prince Imperial will be eventually transferred from their present resting-place within St. Mary's Chapel at Chislehurst.

H.R.H. the Princess Mary Adelaide, accompanied by Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, and attended by the Hon. Mary Thesiger, yesterday visited the Ancient Needlework Exhibition at the School of Art Needlework, Exhibition-road.

The committee have decided to keep the exhibition open over the Easter holidays on account of the public interest taken in it.

Lord Colville of Culross has returned to London from attending the funeral of the late Queen-Dowager of Denmark, where he represented the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough have taken 49, Grosvenor-street, as their future town residence.

Sir William Verner has left Ireland and rejoined Lady Verner, at Nice.

Earl and Countess Percy gave a dinner party in Grosvenor-square last night, among the guests being the Countess of Haddington, Lord Houghton, and Mr. W. H. and the Hon. Mrs. Gladstone.

The inapproachability of Royalty in Bavaria is assuming proportions. The present king listens and replies to the daily reports of the high officers of the Crown from behind a screen!

The presents to be presented to the consort of the Crown Prince of Austria by the loyal municipalities of the Empire are in some cases of such a splendid character as to merit description. The most striking is that to be presented by Buda Pesth—a *parure* of silver ornaments, as exquisite as a work of art as it is costly and magnificent.

The most striking piece is the belt, consisting of artistically arranged small square scales, every one of which has

a diamond in each corner, and a choice opal, reflecting all the colours of the rainbow, in the centre. No less costly is the neck-chain—a whole row of small diamonds, interspersed by larger opals, the whole of a perfectly dazzling effect. This chain reaches almost to the belt, and terminates with a Belgian lion, with a ten carat opal in the coat of arms.

Among the smaller pieces, the hair-pins are particularly remarkable. They are six in number, of solid silver enamelled, the head of each being formed of an opal set in diamonds. Fourteen buckles, richly ornamented with diamonds and opals, are a miniature *garniture* by themselves. The whole of the *parure* will be presented in a tastefully chased silver case.

Agram is to offer a golden diadem, studded with fifty diamonds and other gems, among which seven large and exquisite topazes, found in the Moslavina district, are particularly noted.

A most magnificent set of jewellery, consisting of ear-pendants and necklace, is to be offered by Fiume. These will all be worked in the so-called Moretti style, which has become a speciality of the Fiume goldsmiths. On the sixty gold rosettes, strung on a fine Venetian gold, shining black negro heads are enamelled, while a large and costly ruby forms the centre of each rosette. The blood-red stones, and the black negro-heads, with white eyes and feather ornaments, present a most effective contrast.

The marriage of Lord Alexander Kennedy, second son of the Marquis of Ailsa, with Miss Beatrice Gordon, eldest daughter of the late Tomline Gordon, J.P., D.L., of Cuckney, Notts, will take place in the third week of the present month.

A marriage is arranged between Capt. Charrington, 19th Regiment, son of Mr. E. Charrington, of Bury's Court, Reigate, and Miss Helen Gray, youngest daughter of the late Mr. William Gray, Gray's Court, York.

The marriage of the Earl of Kilmorley and Miss Nellie Baldock, second daughter of Mr. E. H. Baldock, late M.P. for Shrewsbury, is to take place during the forthcoming season, and the marriage of the Hon. Copleston Bamfylde, 1st Life Guards, and Miss Beaumont, is fixed for May 19th.

Amongst the fashionable arrivals yesterday were Count and Countess Lützow, at Eaglehurst, from Vienna, and the Baroness Burdett-Coutts at 1, Stratton-street.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos was appointed chairman of the Buckingham Quarter Sessions at Aylesbury yesterday, in place of Lord Cottesloe, who has resigned.

Among the fashionable guests staying at Brighton are Sir Farrar and Lady Herschell, Sir Eardley Wilmot, Sir Chandos S. H. Reade, Lady Webster, Lady McNaughten, Lady Reade, Lady Jane Taylor, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Buller, Hon. Mrs. and Miss Kerr, Admiral and Mrs. Wake, Admiral Seccombe, General Beecher, C.B., and General Fullerton.

The departures during the week are the Countess des Voisins, Sir Paul and Lady Hunter, Sir Richard Gethin, Sir George Arthur, Sir Douglas Forsyth, Lady St. John, Lord and Lady Claud Hamilton, Lord and Lady Chas. Beresford, Lady Mary Sanden, Lady Elizabeth Arthur, Lady and Miss Fordyce, and the Hon. Rev. Canon and Lady Phipps.

A project is afoot in Hawick to set up a memorial to the Duke of Buccleuch, in recognition of the munificent generosity his Grace has ever practised in the district. To give this further point, we may note that his Grace the Duke has just made a donation of £500 with which to start the Scottish Musical Society.

Churches and Churchmen.

Cardinal Manning, who always forwards the objects of the lawful secular power, had a letter read at all the churches of his archdiocese on Sunday, urging truthfulness and good sense upon his people in the matter of the census.

The Bishop of Gloucester will hold an ordination on Trinity Sunday.

Enthusiasts these Americans in religion as in other things! In Paris they have just subscribed £40,000 for an Episcopalian church, which, it is said, will cost £80,000 when finished. When the foundation-stone was laid a few days ago, nearly £5,000 was collected at a single service. The English Colony is not so impulsive. For a long time past a flag of distress (figuratively speaking) has been waving over the British Church in the Rue d'Aguesseau, which is in dire need of repairs; but all the squeezing of English pockets has not produced a more magnificent total than £800.

A bazaar is to be held in the grounds of Ashurst Park, on August 1st, in aid of a fund for building a vestry to Fordcomb Church, and otherwise improving the building. Stalls will be held by the Marchioness of Abergavenny, Lady Georgiana Field, Hon. Misses Hardinge, Lady Caroline Stirling, Mrs. S. Morley, Mrs. Clowes, Misses Hills, and Mrs. Darbishire.

On Thursday, 14th, the Earl and Countess of Rosebery will open a Loan Exhibition at St. Jude's Schools, Commercial-street, Whitechapel. A small charge will be made for admission, but the necessary expenses will be great. That most courageous of parsons, the Rev. S. A. Barnett, is the life and soul of the movement, and his appeal for funds deserves, and will probably receive, a generous response.

This is the preaching season throughout France. In Paris to hear a sermon just now is about the most fashionable thing you can do on a Sunday. Great throngs of people lose themselves in the vast aisles of Notre Dame, where Pere Monsabré's powerful voice echoes faintly enough in the distant paths and Gothic grottoes, where the light of day glimmers feebly through the deep-stained, dusty glass. Notre Dame is not, however, a convenient church for the aristocracy. If you wish to see the De MacMahon's, the De Broglie's, and the De la Rochefoucauld's enjoying their Lenten sermon, you must go Ste. Clotilde in the Faubourg St. Germain. Here the Abbé Perraud, brother of the Bishop of Autun, has recently been preaching with such effect that on Sunday afternoons more coroneted carriages surround the church than are to be found outside the Grand Opéra on any night of the week. Easter Sunday will be the end of all this. The great preachers will retire again into obscurity, and the small ones will find the stray sheep as shy as ever of the pastoral crook.

Our correspondent in France writes us to the effect that the congregation of Trappist Fathers—the most austere order of priests known in the Catholic Roman Communion—which was expelled in accordance with the recent decrees from its monastery last November, has, acting under advice,

decided to abandon the extensive possessions held by the Order at Dombes.

The monks have migrated to Styria, where they will at once set about founding a new establishment.

Owing to the immense number of orders that have even already been received by the publishers from both sides of the Atlantic, it has been found impossible to fix an earlier date for the issue of the revised New Testament than the 17th of next month.

The British and Foreign Bible Society are at somewhat of a loss what action to take with regard to the revised version, which will throw an extensive stock of the old edition on their hands, besides affecting them in various other ways.

The society's committee has decided, pending further deliberations, to postpone its decision on the matter for a few weeks.

Why not send out the old edition to the perishing heathen—at a cheap rate?

In the City.

Who is promoting the Sosa-y-Mendly Gold Mining Company? Is it one of those inimitable brothers—the Grants?

I do not believe the statement that the 6 per cent. Argentine loan is to be issued at 83. With six per cent. Bonds quoted 94 to 95, the supposition is absurd. The Argentine Government is neither Honduras nor Peru.

Western America is still absorbing gold. Do what the New York banks will, they cannot keep the precious metal in circulation. Several potent forces are depleting the market, and we may, therefore, anticipate a further large efflux from England. Under the peculiar circumstances, then, the gold mania may do good, by replenishing our gold store. So long as Europe can supply the States, a crisis there will be impossible, and after another twelvemonth, when the natural order of commerce again brings the locked-up capital into circulation all danger will pass. The moment the new railways begin to run gold will fly back to New York, Philadelphia, and Washington. As the captain said to Mrs. Brown's prototype, "There is plenty of fear and very little danger."

Peruvians are falling. Since the registration they have declined nearly £2 per load.

A continuance of cheap money is evidently expected. Three months' Treasury Bills were taken at less than 2¼ and six months' bills at less than 2⅜ per cent. According to the *Times*, the capital commitments for the past three months amount to nearly £30,300,000. By including companies advertised only in provincial newspapers, the total is raised considerably over forty milllons.

The amount recently invested in Indian Gold Mines is £2,717,000, rather more than one-half of which has been paid to promoters. The *furore* has now lasted a year, and in no single instance has a dividend been declared.

Guinea Pigs.—A glance at the "Directory of Directors for 1881" will show that out of the 7,500 persons whose names appear in the list a large number may be said to follow the occupation of "Director" as a trade or profession. Nearly 150 are directors of six or more companies, some, indeed, ranging as high as sixteen, and these, too, all of the most diverse nature as to the character of the business: thus one gentleman, a barrister, directs 13 railway lines, the Muswell-hill estate, a financial association, and a telephone company; another, an M.P., 4 banks, 5 railways, 1 life assurance, 1 mining company, and 2 others. Neither do peers disdain the directorial profession, as a glance at the list will prove; nor their younger sons, one of whom is in 10, including dock, ice, tin, railway, assurance and engineering companies!

A complete list of the amount of contributions due from the insurance companies for 1881 towards the maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade has just been published. Looking down the statistics, which are arranged in order of amount, I find that the Sun Office contributes this year the largest of all, viz., £2,732 12s. 8d. as against £2,648 0s. 4d. last year, and the Patriotic the smallest, viz., 4d.; being exactly the same as last year. From the list there appears to be 59 insurance societies in London alone, which I must say is a goodly number. The contributions are levied at the rate of £35 for every million of business done, and the total is £21,857 11s. 8d., being £658 3s. 8d. in excess of last year. The business done by all the London societies in the year 1879, upon which the contributions are based, with the additional business since then being added, amounted to the enormous sum of £624,502,135!

There is a good deal of smoking done in England. The quantity of unmanufactured tobacco imported into this country last year was 59,611,299 lb., the value being £1,750,091, and the net duty paid £8,363,327, Of manufactured tobacco, including cigars and snuff. the quantity imported was 3,499,456 lb., the value £1,130,151, and the duty paid £349,323. The total of both kinds was, therefore, 63,110,755 lb., of the value of £2,880,242, on which a net duty of £8,712,650 was paid. John Bull, to his own great advantage, puts the above into his pipe and smokes it.

Law and Police.

Sir James Ingham has very properly refused to let Herr Most out on bail. It is necessary when a man goes out on bail to take the word of securities for his reappearance; but the oath of a Nihilist is worth as little as Mr. Bradlaugh's, which he himself says is worth nothing.

Newcastle has a singularly developed robber of 14 years. This young thief was apprehended in his master's shop the other day, when it was found that he had his pockets stuffed full of brooches, necklets, and other jewellery.

Another wretched case of child thieving was brought up at Marylebone, a girl of 12 years, named Minnie Allen, being charged with the theft of a silver watch, which she had cleverly abstracted from a tray while the shopkeeper's attention was diverted to another customer.

When given into custody, she said she had been "tempted by Satan," but nevertheless she was sent to the workhouse for a week.

The Probate and Divorce Court will adjourn after to-day (Tuesday) to the Easter sittings.

Judgment will be delivered by the Court of Appeal,

Lincoln's Inn, in the appeal of Rayner *v.* Preston, on Friday next, at 10.30.

Mr. Flowers earned a benediction at the New Court in Bow-street yesterday. This is beginning well. The benediction came from a lady who passes amongst acquaintances as Moll Mahoney, and who is well known to Bow-street officials. She was accused of having been drunk and disorderly in St. Giles's, and her case was first on the list. Mr. Flowers asked why she had so soon been brought before him in the new quarters, whereupon Moll, nothing abashed, promptly replied that she "had had enough of it," and if released "would never come back no more."

It would be rash to assert that Mr. Flowers quite accepted the promise, but, at any rate, he ordered Moll to be discharged, and she hurried out of the dock with a sprightly "God bless you, sir."

But the difficulty was not quite over then, for neither Moll nor her gaolers seemed to know the right way out, and the deciding of the point created some little confusion.

The acoustic properties of the new building are reported to be bad.

The members of the South Eastern Circuit have invited Mr. Justice Watkin Williams and Mr. Justice Mathew to a dinner, to be held in the Inner Temple Hall on Tuesday, the 12th inst., to celebrate their recent elevation to the bench.

Cuckoo Notes.

H.R.H. the Princess of Wales has forbidden ladies wearing sleeveless dresses, the *entrée* of her reception rooms. It was an indecent fashion, and might have led to—anything.

"A senile poulterer" and "aged pigeon fancier" are the terms in which the London correspondent of the *County Gentleman* speaks of someone who has been criticising the late Frank Buckland. Who is he? Surely not that venerable doveman, Mr. ——?

Two of the things we should like to know :—

Why do no medical men of celebrity attend Lord Beaconsfield while he is ill?

Will the House of Commons stultify itself, three deep, by allowing Mr. Bradlaugh, if re-elected for Northampton, to take the oath?

We learn from the annual report of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors that there are 9,909 tailors working in 104 shops—in other words, that there are over ninety tailors to each shop.

Or is it that our Delir. Corr. has found "men" stated in the report, and has multiplied the number originally stated by nine in order to find the equation in tailors?

"Some foolish knave, I think, it first began,
The slander that nine tailors are one man."

If you particularly wish to get insulted, assaulted, and probably murdered, travel by the Underground Railway, and if you get into difficulties with your fellow passengers, apply to the officials for assistance.

We would strongly recommend this course to any of our readers who meditate cheap suicide.

On the Surrey Side.—Sir Henry Peek has given offence to many of his friends in Mid-Surrey by his action in regard to the Guildford, Kingston, and London Railway Bill. In Kingston especially is he in disfavour, and were he to seek re-election just now he would not score so many votes in that town as he did twelve months ago.

He was the only Surrey member who opposed the Bill. His own colleague, Sir Trevor Lawrence, voted against him, as did Messrs. Cubitt and Broderick (West Surrey), Watney and Grantham (East Surrey), Rogers (Southwark), and the Lord Mayor (Lambeth.)

I am told, so confident were the promoters of this Bill of ultimate success, that the girders for the bridge over the Thames were actually ordered six months or more ago.

The third season of the People's Entertainment Society in Battersea came to an end on Saturday evening, to the regret of the many hundreds whom it has catered for.

The Battersea Conservative Association has passed a resolution of regret at the illness of the ex-Premier.

The Surrey county magistrates have unanimously refused to confirm the very few new licences which were granted by the divisional justices. But they haven't meddled with the music-halls yet.

Miss Marie Henderson, who will be remembered as the heroine of the *Geneva Cross* at the Adelphi, and a great favourite down south, is hopelessly ill with brain disease.

The well-known "Defoe Memorial Church" at Tooting, is not to be the subject of a legal case after all. Matters have been arranged.

A hatchet-faced woman, of about fifty-one summers, with a wealth of freckles in her face and a snuff-stick in her mouth, got into a crowded car on Galveston-avenue. There were half-a-dozen gentlemen on the car, but none of them offered to give her seat. After she had waited a considerable time she said: "Ef eny of you galoots is waiting for me to squat in yer lap you are barking up the wrong tree, for I want you to understand I'm a lady." A dread that she was not in earnest caused six gentlemen to leave the car.

This is, of course, only an American story.

A marriage service was in progress at St. John's Church New Orleans. A closely-veiled woman, with an infant in her arms, walked up the centre aisle just as the clergyman asked if anybody objected to the union. "I do,' said the intruder, pulling off her veil, and laying the baby at the foot of the bridegroom. "Here is your child. You are my husband. I am lawfully your wife, and you shall not marry this woman." She made a furious attempt to attack him, but was restrained by the ushers, while the bride screamed and fainted. It transpired that the woman was not the man's wife, though he had for years made her believe so by means of a forged certificate.

The Field Lane Refuge has just made a new departure, and last night summoned its supporters to a first annual dinner. It seems a pity that a useful institution like this should be compelled to sink to the level of the ordinary whining charity. I met the children last night trudging home after their parade at the Freemasons' Tavern, and a pitiable sight it was. They looked very wretched, and very hungry, and very sleepy. Lord Mayor McArthur, you might be doing better work than this.

OLD SHEPHERDS MINES, LIMITED.

CLOSING OF THE LISTS.

In consequence of the large number of Applications already received for Shares in this Company, Notice is hereby given that the LISTS will be closed on WEDNESDAY next, 6th inst., for London, and on THURSDAY, 7th, for the Country.

8, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

THOMAS WILLIAMSON,
Secretary (pro tem).

SPECIAL ATTENTION is called to the statements in accompanying reports, viz.:—(1) That Dividends amounting to £240,000 sterling have been paid from workings on only 2 of the 7 lodes the sett contains, and that this was done when Lead was at about one-half its present price; (2) That these 2 Lodes have only been worked on for about one-sixth of their length, and at a comparatively shallow depth; (3) That from the Western Ground, just added, Silver-Lead Ore in large quantities can be raised almost immediately.

OLD SHEPHERDS MINES, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies' Acts, 1862 to 1880, whereby the liability of Shareholders is absolutely limited to the amount of their Shares.

CAPITAL £80,000, IN 80,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.

Of which 22,500 Shares are reserved as part payment to the Vendors.

Applications for over 30,000 Shares have already been received.

PAYMENTS AS FOLLOWS:—2s. on Application; 3s. on Allotment, and the remainder as required, in Calls of not exceeding 2s. 6d. each, at intervals of not less than one month.

In the event of no Allotment being made, amounts paid on Application for Shares will be returned in full.

The Vendors guarantee a Dividend of Seven per Cent. per Annum for One Year from date of Allotment of Shares, on the paid-up Capital (in order to give time to erect Machinery and raise Ore), depositing 8,000 Shares, part of the Purchase-money, in the hands of the Directors to cover their guarantee.

Directors.

Sir George Innes, Bart., Chairman East Wheal Rose, Limited.
George Forman, Esq., Director Indian Queen's and Parka Mines Consols, Limited.
John Virct Gooch, Esq., M. Inst. C.E., Richmond, Surrey.
Alexander Nowell Sherson, Esq., Director East Wheal Rose, Limited.
J. Valentine Smedley, Esq., Director East Wheal Rose, Limited.
Frederick Tamblyn, Esq., Director East Wheal Rose, Limited.

Bankers.

The Standard Bank of England (Limited), Lombard-street, E.C.
The Cornish Bank (Limited), Truro, Cornwall.
South Cornwall Bank, St. Austell, Cornwall.

Solicitors—Messrs. Wild, Browne and Wild, Ironmonger-lane, E.C.

Engineers—Matthew Loam and Son, Liskeard, Cornwall.

Brokers—Archibald J. Smyth, Esq., 16A, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C., and Stock Exchange; James Squires, Esq., 82, Old Broad-street, and Stock Exchange.

Secretary (pro. tem.)—Mr. Thomas Williamson.

Registered Offices—8, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and working an extensive range of Silver-Lead Lodes, one of the richest in the county of Cornwall, and known as "Old Shepherds Mines," together with an extensive run of ground west of "Shepherds."

The property consists of a large tract of mining ground, containing seven Lodes, and giving a run on the course of the lodes, east and west, of nearly 1½ miles in length. It is situate about 1 mile west of "East Wheal Rose" (which in 13 years returned £1,000,000 worth of ore), and about 2 miles south-west of the well-known "West Chiverton" Mine.

A branch of the Great Western Railway (an extension from "East Wheal Rose") skirts the property, from which sidings can be extended to the engines and lead houses, whereby a large saving will be effected in carriage.

The great value of the property may be judged from the statements in the accompanying reports, that already dividends amounting to £240,000 sterling have been paid from working only two of the seven lodes running through the sett, and that these have been wrought on for less than one-sixth of the length of the present company's grant.

Captain NANCARROW (late Manager of West Chiverton Mine), in his report, says, "This property is so well known in the county, and its past riches so proverbial, that it needs no comment from me, only just to say that it is the best lead mine in the County of Cornwall, for the quantity of ground opened."

From the reports enclosed, it will be seen that there is no falling off in the value of the lodes, for Captain Doidge, the Manager of "East Wheal Rose," reports:—"At the deepest point" (125 fathoms), "it improves to 10 tons per fathom," and Walter Lampshire, who worked in the mine until it stopped, reports:—"In the bottom of the engine shaft the lode will produce full 10 tons of Silver Lead per fathom."

Both Captains Nancarrow and Doidge have long been connected with, and interested in, the Property, and have a most intimate knowledge thereof.

So rich in Silver was "Old Shepherds," that Sir Christopher Hawkins erected a Smelting House for the purpose of extracting that metal from the Lead. A specimen of the Ore has been submitted to Messrs. Johnson, Matthey & Co., Assayers to the Bank of England and H.M. Mint, who, on the 28th March, 1881, by their certificate of analysis, certified as follows:—"Produce of Silver, 186·200 ozs. per ton of 20 cwt. of Ore."

The accompanying Surface Plan of the property shows the extent of the ground. The remaining portion of the two lodes, partially worked, is about six times as long as that already worked. In addition to these, there are five other lodes, believed to be equally rich in silver and lead. If so, the seven lodes, without sinking a single fathom below the present depth, contain immense reserves.

Captain DOIDGE says:—"A comparatively small horizontal engine could quickly be erected on it." (Western ground.) "The lodes are close to surface, and returns would follow almost directly the engine worked, and when in full swing I believe 250 tons of lead could be returned monthly from it, and the same quantity could be returned from the other two portions, or, say, in all 750 tons of silver-lead per month, worth at the present price £15 per ton, and the cost of returning, including every other expense, would not now certainly be more than one-half."

Taking Captain Doidge's above Report as a fair estimate of the probable quantities to be obtained from the several grounds mentioned when the Mines are in full work, the following is a moderate statement of the results to be expected:—

Sale of 750 tons of Silver Lead per month, or 9,000 tons per annum, at £15 per ton...	£135,000
Deduct 50 per cent. for all expenses	67,500
This would leave a net annual Profit of	£67,500

Or about 84 per cent. per annum on the whole Capital.

This Estimate for Working Expenses is believed to be much above the probable cost.

The Directors invite applications for Shares in "Old Shepherds Mines," which are proverbially known as very rich in Silver Lead. The Company's sett is of great extent, and has been comparatively little worked.

It is intended to apply to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for an official quotation.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application, together with Reports and Plans, sent Post Free on Application.

PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE

(FOUNDED 1806),

50, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W.

Invested Funds - - - - - - - - - -	£2,124,711
Annual Income - - - - - - - - - -	279,852

Upwards of Twenty Millions Sterling have been Assured.

DIVISION OF PROFITS.—The next Division of Profits will take place in May, 1883.

All Bonus-Policies issued in 1881 will participate on two premiums.

HALF-CREDIT SYSTEM.—Under this system, ONE-HALF THE PREMIUM only is payable during the first 5, 7, or 10 years, in the option of the Assured; the other half-premium remains a charge against the policy, bearing 5 per cent. interest, payable in advance. Full explanation in a short leaflet.

C. STEVENS,
Secretary.

Six per Cent. Debenture Bonds.

THE

WESTERN DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY,

LIMITED.

PORCHESTER HOUSE, 63, 65, & 67, BISHOP'S-ROAD, BAYSWATER, LONDON.

Issue of £13,000 Debenture Bonds of £10 Each.

Repayable in six years, carrying interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum. The Coupons attached to the Bonds will be payable to the bearer of a Bond half-yearly at the Society's Bankers, the National Bank, Notting-hill-gate, on the 25th day of September, and on the 25th day of March in each year. Issue price of Bonds par.

Share capital of the Society £10,000 of £1 each. 7,654 shares have been subscribed, £7,654 paid up.

The issue of these Debenture Bonds is made under the authority given to the Board of Directors, by the 75th Article Sub-Section H of the Articles of Association, and has been sanctioned by a General Meeting of Shareholders held on the 28th day of March, 1881.

The Directors of the WESTERN DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED, invite subscriptions for the above-mentioned Mortgage Debentures with interest coupons attached.

The Society purchased the three leases of the valuable property known as Porchester House, Nos. 63, 65, and 67, Bishop's-road, Bayswater, with frontages to Bishop's-road and Inverness-terrace. This property is held under three several leases. As to 63 and 65, Bishop's-road for an unexpired term of about 60 years, at a yearly ground rent of £15 per annum each; and No. 67 is held by under lease for a term of 21 years, from the 25th March, 1867, at a rental of £300.

The said property is mortgaged for sums amounting to £8,000.

Assets as per Balance Sheet passed at the General Meeting held on March 26th, 1881:—

	£	s.	d.
The estimated value of the leases calculated at 14 years' purchase is	9,425	8	8
The Society has expended on the premises for various improvements the sum of	634	11	4
Cost of fittings, &c.	1,163	0	9
Cost of furniture	679	12	7
Value of stock in hand on the 26th day of February, at cost price	4,744	0	3
Making a total value of assets, subject to Mortgages of £8,000..	£16,646	13	7

The Society consists of 1,700 members, and which number is increasing. The weekly sales at the present time now average about £1,200, and the profits thereon are sufficient not only to enable the Society to pay its pay, but also to leave a surplus available for dividends.

The objects the Society has in view in making the present issue of Debenture Bonds are as follows:—

To further extend the operation of the Society by opening new departments, and to extend the lease of No. 67 to the same unexpired term as the leases of Nos. 63 and 65.

To pay off or reduce the existing mortgages on the leasehold premises of £8,000 out of all sums in excess of £5,000 received by the Society from the issue of the said Debentures, and so far as the same may extend, and thus effect a saving of interest.

If the amount subscribed be sufficient to pay off the existing mortgage these Debenture Bonds will be a first and preference charge on all the Society's assets, but in the event of such a sufficient sum not being raised as will allow the Directors to fully pay off the Mortgages they will be issued subject to such balance of Mortgage as may remain unpaid.

The Bonds will be to bearer with coupons attached. The latter will be payable at the Banking offices of the National Bank, Notting-hill-gate, W.

It is intended, so far as practicable, to keep a registrar of the holders of the Bonds at the offices of the Society. Applications will have to be made to the Secretary, 25 per cent. being paid on application, and the remaining 75 per cent. will be payable one month after allotment. Cheques must be made payable to the Secretary, and crossed "Account of the Western District Co-operative Society, Limited."

CHARLES HAMPTON'S WHOLESALE PIANOFORTE CLUB,

ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED TO SUPPLY CIVIL SERVANTS ON CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

WITH

FIRST-CLASS PIANOS ONLY,

at a *bonâ fide* REDUCTION of 25 per cent. off Cash Prices, by MONTHLY PAYMENTS of One Guinea. Ballot Monthly, or Pianos may be had at once on payment of Five Guineas in advance, but this does not mean five guineas in addition.

PROSPECTUS AND "ANSWERS TO QUERIES" FREE.

74, CHARLOTTE-STREET, FITZROY-SQUARE, W.

LOCAL SECRETARIES REQUIRED.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

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